



Lodi High School

Social Networking By Student-Athletes and Co-curricular Participants

2013-2014

In the past, inappropriate use of social media by Lodi High School students participating in co-curricular activities has resulted in the suspension from games and practices. In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and to deter the need to enforce such discipline, Lodi High School recommends the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by Lodi High School students. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Tumblr.

Lodi High School respects the right of its students to use social media. However, it is important for Lodi High School students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Lodi High School students who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Lodi High School community and, as such, is subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Lodi High School Student-Athlete and Parent Handbook; the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Rules and Regulations; and state and federal law.

BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE:

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for Lodi High School students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a Lodi High School Student-Athlete or co-curricular participant, you should:

1. **Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof.** Lodi High School students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, Lodi High School students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if you diligently monitor your privacy settings, it's best to assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents and strangers.
2. **Avoid Posting Confidential Information.** Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is **NOT** recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.
3. **Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles.** Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.

4. **Avoid Posting Illegal Activities.** Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future. Lodi High School students should avoid the following:

- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.

5. **Avoid Bullying\Threats of Violence.** While Lodi High School students have a right to free speech, that right is **NOT** unlimited. Bullying is a serious problem and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. Lodi High School students should avoid the following:

- Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, students, staff members, athletic administrators, or representatives of other schools;
- Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and
- Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

Lodi High School students should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

6. **Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarizing.** While Lodi High School does not monitor student social media accounts, it has the right to act on information provided by third parties (i.e. students, parents, & community members). Social media sites may be investigated in the event of allegations of lying, cheating and/or plagiarism.

It is the expectation of Lodi High School that as a Student-Athlete or co-curricular participant, you will represent our school in the best possible manner. Your signature below indicates that you understand this information and the attached discipline. Furthermore, you will continue to uphold the high standards and character that is expected of all of our students.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Date